EXHIBIT	-	2	
DATE_	3-1	0-2009	- ABOP-
SB	<u>56</u>	222	ji e



3-6-09

Re: SB 222

Howdy

We appreciate the opportunity to come before your committee and to testify in support of SB 222.

I can't emphasize enough, that the people in the Hwy 2 Corridor are only asking for the same consideration that MDT affords other areas of the state. Please know that it was never our intention to take funding away from other highway projects.

As you are most likely aware, Montana is divided into 5 Districts, each represented by a Hwy Commission Member.

Funding is allotted to each district to fund projects that are prioritized and approved by the Commission Members.

When I served in the Legislature I supported Economic Development in Montana, where ever it took place, because it would be good for the economy of the state overall.

It is our hope that we can move beyond the regionalism that has been prevalent and work together for the overall good of the state.

Oh my, but the opportunities are many, if only Montana will become engaged and involved.

Montana sets at the gateway to one of the strongest economies in North America, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

There is a movement afoot to expand on a North South Trade Corridor, Alberta/Saskatchewan to Texas.

Montana sets smack dab in the middle of all the activity.

In December, I attended the Alberta-Texas Summit in Austin, Tx.

I can tell you these folks have an agenda.

I have met with MLA's (Member's of Legislative Assembly) and other Officials in Alberta and Saskatchewan, as well as in North Dakota.

There is broad support for the endeavor.

They are striving to Enhance Commerce and Trade from Ab & Sk to Tx. They want and need Montana as a partner in the Coalition.

I have been in DC with the group, Feb 2008 and just last week, where we met with most of the Congressional Delegations from the nine states in the corridor.

Its called building alliances and these meetings have been very successful. Bottom line! If Montana gets involved and works with our neighbors, the Trade Corridor can and I predict will become one of the strongest economies in North America.

Together we can recession proof the region.

Think about it, this Region has all the resources, be it conventional or renewable energy or agriculture, that the rest of the world wants and needs. Northern Montana has and still does, contribute to the states surplus. If allowed the same considerations as the rest of the state, you haven't seen anything yet.

A vote in favor of SB 222 would be appreciated. Thanks.

We appreciate all that you do for Montana.

Cordially

Bob Sivertsen

laredoenterprises@msn.com

Hwy 2 Assoc, Pres

406-262-2346

CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

I SPEAK AS A PROPONET OF S B 222 BECAUSE THE PRESENT WORDING OF SB3, THAT BECAME LAW IN 2001, PUTS A STRANGLE HOLD ON ALL STUDIES AND UP GRADES ALONG THE # 2 CORRIDOR, AND THAT DOES NOT ONLY MEAN EASTERN MONTANA, BUT ALL OF HIGHWAY #2, IN AREAS OF WESTERN MONTANA AS WELL, IF YOU LOOK HIGHWAY # 2 ALSO RUNS THRU SHELBY, CUT BANK, BROWNING, EAST GLACIER, WEST GLACIER. COLUMBIA FALLS, KALISPELL, LIBBY, AND NUMEROUS OTHER LOCATIONS, THAT UNDER S B 3 CAN NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR STATE MONEY TO CONSTRUCT 4 LANE HIGHWAYS, SO I WOULD RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THIS COMMITTEE PASS S B 222 AND REMOVE THE WORDING THAT STOPS THE CONTUINED STUDY AND UP GRADES TO HIGHWAY # 2 AND IT WILL REMOVE THE DOUBLE STANDARD THAT IS NOW IN PLACE.

Deanna B Land Jim Tragosorm Vasiliki Treperinas Vasiliki Treperinas Webster Matheway

Re: SB 222

This letter is in support for the above noted Senate Bill. I am a lifetime resident of northeast Montana and have been in business in Wolf Point for over 40 years. I am well aware of the importance of having a modern four lane highway to promote the economy of the Hi-Line.

In my opinion, former Governor Martz had little vision or support for the welfare of Eastern and Northern Montana. I strongly support the change of the law which limits the funding of four lane construction on US Highway 2.

I am reminded of an editorial in a Butte newspaper a few years ago which stated that there was no need for a four lane corridor across the Hi-Line. It seems that Butte (and Martz) forgot about the tremendous effort that Butte put forth in the early 50's to move the proposed routing of the interstate to include Butte. Their arguments at the time were the same as those used today by the proponents for "4 for 2".

I think if you look at Butte today and the positive effect the interstate has had on that community, you would have to agree that a four lane highway does have a major impact.

Marvin Presser High Plains Motors, Inc Wolf Point, Montana 59201

Re: SB 222

My wife and I own property along Hwy 2 right in the middle of Havre, Montana. We have two businesses operating on this property which we own. We are very interested in seeing that U S Hwy 2 becomes a four lane highway.

Our new federal administration is currently pushing economic development and infrastructure needs. North Central Montana sits at the gateway to one of the strongest economies in North America, along with Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada. In order to take advantage of this opportunity, U S Hwy 2 needs to be upgraded to four lanes.

Also, with some 500 billion barrels of oil in the Williston basin, which is 9 times greater than Saudi Arabia's reserve, Montana sits in the middle of activity that could free our country of foreign energy dependency and in fact start supplying the world. We all hear this constantly from our government leaders, federal and state. At what point do these elected leaders actually take the reins and then proceed to get it done. As our economy is showing at this time in all commercial areas, it is time to act, continuing to talk is not the answer. It is time for our Montana ELECTED leaders to go to action and push, push, push for the four lanes of U S Highway 2. It's just common sense that without good, accessible roads, some of these ventures might just PASS MONTANA BY. We Montanans cannot continue to sit back and think that our wonderful agricultural businesses and tourism can continue to support our state. We have to look at other avenues and certainly 4 for 2 is a viable opportunity.

The Federal Government is pushing economic development and infrastructure, here is their chance to fund a project that would benefit the entire country.

Thank you for your consideration and certainly allowing us to submit our opinion,

Hugh and Wanda Crowell

Re: SB 222

As Hill County's Representative on the Board of Directors of the Highway #2

Association, your support of SB 222 would be appreciated. With the increase in large loads from the Gulf Coast being shipped along Hwy #2 to the oil sands of Alberta, we need a safe and adequate 4 lane highway for the present and future energy development that is a driving force to our State and Northern Montana. Thanks

Dennis Morgan / Modern Aire Havre Mt 406-265-2711

Re: SB 222

This letter is in support for Senate Bill 222. I am business owner in northeast Montana and Wolf Point MT. I was born and raised in this area and sent 7 years of my adult in other areas for the county. This experience has made me well aware of the importance of having a modern four lane highway to promote the economy of the Hi-line.

As you know North Dakota has done is on their miles of Highway 2 and it allows us to get to Minot, ND on a regular basis. The trip to Minot is about 35 miles further than Havre but can be done in less time and stress. I am always surprised how many people are traveling on this road. This travel would only increase if people could cross Montana on this type of Highway.

James K Johnson Agland Realty Wolf Point MT 59201

Testimony for Hearing on SB222

3/4/09

As owner/manager of the Cottonwood Inn in Glasgow, Montana, I would urge you to pass SB222.

This is a necessary step for Montana to progress in transportation infrastructure. Highway 2 construction should be based upon the same standards as the rest of the state.

I have been a long-time supporter of the 4 for 2 project. This needs to be included in the transportation plans for the state of Montana in order for the state to promote much needed economic development along the Hi-Line.

Betty Stone Cottonwood Inn 45 1st Ave NE Glasgow, Montana betty@cwimt.net

Re: SB 222

PLEASE Support SB 222 by Senator Hansen. SB 3 was passed in 2001 with bad advice and caused highways in Montana to be funded in two different standards and it is about time we corrected it.

North East Mt. should be treated as an equal when it comes to funding highways in Montana. Thanks

Frank J. Smith Former House and Senate Member Hwy 2 Assoc. Brd Member